

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 9, 2017

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: This week was mostly cool and spring-like with scattered precipitation in the form of rain and snow which varied greatly across Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures ranged from the mid 50s to the lower 80s and low temperatures ranged from 8 degrees in Wisdom to the lower 30s. Precipitation in the form of rain and snow was present but varied across the State, with the highest amount recorded in Fort Benton with 0.94 of an inch of moisture. Other reporting stations recorded receiving between none to 0.90 of an inch of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions were 93 percent adequate to surplus which is above of last year's 50 percent. Subsoil moisture conditions are 87 percent adequate to surplus, well above last year's 49 percent. Some reporters are noting that fields are too wet to begin planting and there were only 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork this week compared with 5.5 days suitable last year and the 5-year average of 4.3 days suitable. Despite these difficulties in some areas, spring seeding has begun for some with 1 percent of barley and 2 percent of spring wheat planted so far which is behind both last year and the 5-year average for both crops. Winter wheat continued breaking dormancy as temperatures warmed with 83 percent out of dormancy. Winter wheat condition is rated 63 percent good to excellent, compared with 55 percent last year. Livestock grazing is 93 percent open to difficult compared to 83 percent at the same time last year. Pasture and range conditions are emerging from winter with 56 percent rated good to excellent compared with 20 percent last year and the 5-year average of 26 percent. Livestock producers are providing supplemental feed as they wait for pastures to start greening with 85 percent of cattle and 88 percent of sheep being fed. Livestock birthing is well underway with 68 percent of calving and 65 percent of lambing complete so far.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	1	--	23	15
Spring wheat				
Planted	2	--	15	8
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	83	61	56	NA
Cattle and calves				
Calving completed	68	52	49	57
Receiving supplemental feed	85	90	82	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Lambing completed	65	48	47	30
Receiving supplemental feed	88	94	84	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.7	3.2	5.5	4.3
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	--	17	10
Short.....	6	7	33	23
Adequate.....	82	82	50	61
Surplus.....	11	11	--	6
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	3	3	13	11
Short.....	10	10	38	25
Adequate.....	75	74	47	56
Surplus.....	12	13	2	8

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Grazing Accessibility				
Open.....	78	77	71	64
Difficult.....	15	15	12	17
Closed.....	7	8	17	19
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	1	2	10	9
Poor.....	10	10	22	22
Fair.....	33	31	48	43
Good.....	39	40	18	24
Excellent.....	17	17	2	2
Winter Wheat				
Very poor.....	1	--	1	2
Poor.....	5	5	5	7
Fair.....	31	32	39	33
Good.....	56	58	51	47
Excellent.....	7	5	4	11

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana’s weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2017/MT_Weather_04092017.pdf